

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00107 061240Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 A-01 SY-05
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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 0644
INFO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0107

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, NP
SUBJECT: B. P. KOIRALA'S HEALTH

A) NEW DELHI 0057, B) KATHMANDU 0021, C) SECTO
1"968, D) KATHMANDU 0022, E) STATE 002383
(NOTAL)

1. AS REPORTED IN REFS B & D, I SAW KING JANUARY 5, AND RAISED
WITH HIM QUESTION OF B. P.'S HEALTH AND STATUS.

2. I STARTED BY REFERRING TO NEWS ITEMS IN INDIAN
NEWSPAPERS JANUARY 4 REPORTING J.P. NARAYAN'S
CONCERNS ABOUT B.P. KOIRALA'S HEALTH AND INDICATING THAT
HE WAS APPEALING TO VARIOUS WORLD LEADERS TO INTERVENE
ON BEHALF OF B.P. (TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, J.P.'S
LETTER TO PRESIDENT,, REF A, HAS NOT AS YET
SURFACED). I ADDED THAT THERE WAS NATURALLY
CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN US ABOUT B.P.'S HEALTH
AND ASKED KING WHAT HE COULD TELL ME ABOUT SITUATION.

3. KING SAID HE WAS AWARE OF PRESS REPORTS ABOUT
J.P. AND COULD WELL UNDERSTAND CONCERN OF B.P.'S
FRIENDS FOR HIS HEALTH AND WELFARE. HE THEN
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 00107 061240Z

WENT ON IN FRIENDLY BUT FIRM FASHION TO OUTLINE
HIS VIEWS ON THIS MATTER AS FOLLOWS:
THERE WERE TWO ASPECTS TO B.P.'S CURRENT SITUATION,
A) HIS HEALTH, AND B) TRIAL HE IS UNDERGOING FOR
CRIMINAL CHARGES GON HAS BROUGHT AGAINST HIM.
IN THIS CONNECTION, KING STLCSSD THAT B.P. WAS IN JAIL
BECAUSE OF THESE CRIMINAL

CHARGES AND NOT REPEAT NOT FOR ANY IDEOLOGICAL OR POLITICAL REASONS. ON MATTER OF HEALTH, KING CONFIRMED MY INFORMATION (REF B) THAT B.P. HAD RECENTLY BEEN ILL FOR REASONS NOT CONNECTED WITH HIS CAROTID ARTERIES BUT THAT HE HAD FULLY RECOVERED AND WAS AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTSR FOR A MAN OF HIS AGE AND WITH HIS MEDICAL HISTORY.

COMMENT. IT WAS THIS ILLNESS WHICH GAVE RISE TO RUMORS ABOUT B.P.'S DECLINING HEALTH AMF WHICH I BELIEVE REACHED J.P. END COMMENT. KING WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAS INSTRUCTED TEAM OF NEPALESE DOCTORS TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH B.P. AND TO REPORT TO HIM IMMEDIYLELY AND SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN B.P.'S HEALTH. RECUHLING VISIT OF DR. BRACHFELD TO KATHMANDU IN EARLY DECEMBER, KING SAID THAT HMG HAD FOUND ITSELF IN SOMETHING OF A DILEMMA. IT SYMPATHIZED WITH DR. BRACHFELD'S DESIRE TO SEE B.P. BUT ALSO FELT THAT ONCE FOREIGN DOCTOR WAS ALLOWED TO SEE KORALA, THIS WOULD OPEN DOOR TO SERIES OF REQUESTS BY FOREIGN DOCTORS AND WELL-WISHERS WHICH GON DID NOT BELIEVE IT COULD AUTHORIZE. KING ACCORDINGLY FELT THAT HE SHOULD RELY ON NEPALESE MEDICAL TEAM FOR ADVICE ON B.P.'S HEALTH AND IMPLIED THAT IF THIS TEAM RECOMMENDED FURTHER MEDICAL ATTENTION OUTSIDE OF NEPAL THIS WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KATHMA 00107 061240Z

CONSIDERED.

4. AS FOR B.P.'S TRIAL, KING SAID THIS WAS PROCEEDING BEFORE A SPECIAL TRIBUNAL, CRIMINAL CHARGES WERE COMPLICATED AND REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE WHICH WAS BEONG COLLECTED. INFORTUNATELY, THIS TOOK TIME AS IT WOULD IN ANY COUNTRY, BUT WHATEVER JUDICIAL FINDINGS MIGHT BE KING WAS AS INTERESTED AS ANYONE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF NEPALESE JUDICIAL PROCESS IN EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF CASE.

5. IN LIGHT OF KING'S FIRMLY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT BOTH B.P.'S HEALTH AND JUDICIAL PROBLEMS ARE MATTERS FOR NEPALESE AND NOT FOREIGNERS TO HANDLE, I PROPOSE TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF DR. BRACHFELD'S OBSERVATIONS (REF E) TO CHIRAN THAPA OF PALACE WHO I AM SEEING THIS EVENING, JANUARY 6, SO PALACE HAS AVAILABLE TO IT BRACHFELD'S MEDICAL OPINIHN,

6. I RECOMMEND THAT:

A) PRESIDENT CONSIDER INCLUDING IN LETTER WE HOPE HE WILL BE SENDING TO KING ABOUT HIS VISIT TO

INDIA A BRIEF STATEMENT REFERRING TO CONVERN
OF INTERESTED AMERICANS ABOUT B.P.' S
HEALTH AND EXPRESSING INTEREST IN RECEIVING NEWS
FROM KING ON THIS MATTER.

B) IF IT IS FELT PRESIDENT SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE
J.P.'S LETTER, THAT HE DO SO BY SAYING THAT HE
HOPES TO FOLLOW UP ONHMHIS MATTER IN THE NEAR
FUTURE, BUT WITHOUT MENTIONING THAT HE IS
PROPOSING TO DO SO BY LETTER TO KING WHICH WOULD BE
TAKEN AMISS HERE IF J.P. SURFACED PRESIDENT'S LETTER.
HECK

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